



Machine Tool System

Abstract of the Disclosure

A machine tool apparatus is provided employing a plurality of tool heads which may be sequentially or simultaneously automatically controlled to perform preprogrammed operations on either the same or different work pieces. In one form, a plurality of tool heads are supported on the same frame, guideway or track and may be separate prepositioned or driven under remote or automatic control to perform preprogrammed operations either in sequence or simultaneously on the same work piece or simultaneously on separate work pieces spaced apart on a common conveyor such as a flight conveyor while the conveyor is either in motion or stationary.

In another form, the conveyor is automatically stopped with units of work thereon, each disposed so as to be predeterminedly located with respect to a respective machine tool which has been prepositioned adjacent the work-holding conveyor. In yet another form, at least certain of the machine tools are movable parallel to the work-holding conveyor so that they may be predeterminedly moved prior to and/or during operations on work.

In yet another form, means are provided for transferring units of work from the work-holding conveyor to temporary platforms adjacent certain of the respective machine tools so that each tool may perform automatic operations on work while the work-holding conveyor remains operating.

Related Applications

This is a continuation-in-part of serial number 712,443 filed March 12, 1968, for Machine Tool Apparatus and Method which was a continuation of serial number 387,954 filed August 6, 1964, and has as a parent application serial number 557,415 filed April 10, 1956 now U.S. Patent 3,049,247.

9. An automatic production apparatus in accordance with claim 6 including a bridge crane supported for travel in both directions along said guide means located over and above the sides of said conveyor for performing operations on work supported by said conveyor.

10. An apparatus in accordance with claim 9 including a tool supported by said bridge crane for operating on work supported by said conveyor.

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B'

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